

## Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9291

UNCLAS PARIS 12234

OE 11652 N/A

TAGS PFOR FR

SUBJECT FRENCH PRESS REPORTS OF PRESIDENT'S CALL TO GISCARD.

1. PRESIDENT'S TELEPHONE CALL TO GISCARD WAS SUBJECT OF TWO FRENCH NEWS AGENCY (AFP) STORIES CARRIED EARLY MONDY WHICH WERE CITED BRIEFLY BY BOTH PRIVATE RADIO STATIONS IN MONDAY MORNING NEWS BROADCASTS AND BY LE MONDE MONDAY AFTERNOON. THESE CONTAINED LITTLE COMMENT. FRENCH MONDAY MONRING NEWSPAPERS WERE PUBLISHED BEFORE THE CALL TOOK PLACE.

2. FIRST AFP STORY, FROM KEY BISCAYNE, REPORTED PRESIDENT CALLED GISCARD "AS SOON AS THE RESULTS WERE KNOWN", AND TOLD HIM HE "HOPED THAT THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND FRANCE WOULD CONTINUE." AFP SAID PRESIDENT ALSO EXPRESSED THE "CERTAINTY" THAT HE WOULD HAVE WITH GISCARD "THE SAME PERSONAL AND WORKING RELATIONS HE HAD HAD WITH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU", AND UNDERLINED THAT GISCARD WOULD BE FIRST ECONOMIST TO BE CHIEF OF STATE OF A FREE-WOLD COUNTRY. CONVERSATION WAS DESCRIBED AS LASTING "SEVERAL MINUTES". GISCARD WAS REPORTED TO HAVE RESPONDED THAT HE IS CERTAIN HE WILL HAVE SAME "CORDIAL RELATIONS" WITH PRESIDENT THAT POMPIDOU HAD. STORY ADDED THAT THE "WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN, MR. RONALD ZIEGLER, WHO TELEPHONED ESPECIALLY TO THE AFP REPORTER AT KEY BISCAYNE TO TELL HIM ABOUT THIS CONVERSATION, ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD SEND MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING AN OFFICIAL MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS ON MONDAY".

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3. SECOND AFP STORY, DATELINED WASHINGTON, SAID PRESIDENT, "WITHOUT WAITING FOR RESULTS TO BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED" TELEPHONED FROM KEY BISCAYNE. CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE IN ENGLISH, SAID AFP, AND GISCARD NOTED PRESIDENT WAS FIRST TO SEND CONGRATULATIONS. AFP CONTINUED:"BY ALL EVIDENCE, IT WAS MR. NIXON'S INTENTION TO STRESS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE U.S., WHICH ARE GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT PERIOD, SHOULD IMPROVE, AND MR. NIXON EMPHASIZED THE FACT THAT (GISCARD) WOULD BE THE FIRST CHIEF OF STATE IN THE FREE WORLD WHO IS A SPECIALIST IN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS. IT IS NOT USUAL FOR THE WHITE HOUSE NOT TO RESPECT PROTOCOL. MR. NIXON'S TELEPHONE CALL, TO BE FOLLOWED MONDAY WITH AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION, MARKS A VERY CLEAR DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE U.S. TO DO EVERYTHING TO AVOID DISPUTED MATTERS WITH FRANCE."  
IRWIN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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